

him an excellent choice as the guest Chaplain.

Again, I am very pleased to have Reverend Dutille, his wife Patricia, and his daughter Melissa with us here today. I'm sure I speak for all of my colleagues in extending a very warm welcome on this special day.

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed for 60 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GREGG). Without objection, it is so ordered.

CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY [LIBERTAD] ACT OF 1995

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, before the Senate proceeds to vote on the cloture motion on the substitute to H.R. 927, the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, I state for the record that if cloture is invoked, it is my intention to seek recognition and to lay before the Senate amendment No. 2936, the Libertad Act, with titles I and II only.

I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, if I could use a little bit of my leader time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE CLOTURE VOTE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I understand why the chairman made the decision to delete title III from the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act. A determined minority—at the urging of the White House—was able to prevent action on the legislation. Mr. President, 94 percent of Republicans voted to invoke cloture, and 17 percent of Democrats voted for cloture. I commend the Members of both sides of the aisle willing to bring debate on this measure to a close. I know for the Democrats it is not easy to stand up to the kind of White House blitz that has occurred.

Once again, the White House says one thing and does another. The White House talks about toughening the embargo on Cuba, and then works to undermine the sanction Castro fears most. The White House says it wants bipartisanship in foreign policy—in fact they are pleading with us on Bosnia—and then uses partisan arguments to derail this legislation. Policy toward Castro's Cuba has been a perfect example of three decades of bipartisan cooperation. In the House, 67 Democrats supported a tougher version of this legislation. Nine Senate Democrats support cloture, and I expect many more would without the kind of pressure coming from 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Let there be no mistake—White House inflexibility has forced the change made today.

As I said last week, the Dole-Helms amendment—we already made 10 changes to address administration concerns. We were willing to make more to

address issues raised in this debate—raising the threshold for legal action from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for example, or extending the effective date from 6 months to 2 years after enactment. These are changes that will presumably be considered in conference on H.R. 927.

I supported title III as drafted in the Dole-Helms substitute. Yes, it does give a new right of legal action that could bring more suits before American courts. But if clogging up the court system is a concern of the White House or of opponents of this bill, I call on them to join with me to enact comprehensive tort reform. Opponents of this bill say title III would create a right for Cuban-Americans not enjoyed by Polish-Americans. They are right. And there is one critical distinction—today, Poland is free while Cuba suffers under the boot of Castro's repression.

That is what it really comes down to—the Cuban people continue to suffer while Castro searches for ways to finance his dictatorship. There are legitimate differences over the best way to bring democratic change to Cuba but we should be very clear about one thing: It is the chilling effect on investment in Cuba caused by the provisions of title III that worries Fidel Castro the most.

I expect the Senate to conclude action relatively quickly on this legislation. The international embargo on Cuba will be strengthened, and important provisions for the eventual transition to democracy will be enacted. I remain hopeful—and I say this in a spirit of bipartisanship; we had it work in some other areas, not as many as we should—that we can continue to work out a solution to the issue of property stolen by Fidel Castro so that is acceptable to at least 60 Senators.

Again, I commend my colleagues on this side and the others on the other side, and I hope, now that title III has been deleted, we could have an overwhelming vote for cloture, let us go to conference, let us work in a reasonable way—with the White House, if they would like to. I am certain the Senator from North Carolina would be willing to do that.

Mr. HELMS. Hear, hear.

Mr. DODD. I ask unanimous consent I be able to address Senate for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from North Carolina. I intend to vote for cloture as a result of the amendments he has made.

Let me say to my colleagues, this title III had virtually nothing to do with Cuba and an awful lot to do with our own claims process in this country. While Poland may be free today, Vietnam and the Peoples Republic of China are not. That would create unique distinctions for those of Cuban nationality. While I have great sympathy for them, in terms of their right to bring actions for expropriated property, this

would create an egregious raid on the Treasury, in my view.

My hope would be the House would adopt the Senate language, in the absence of title III and other provisions, so that we would be able to move forward and send this bill to the President for his signature.

So I support cloture and urge my colleagues to do so, that we then might consider other amendments on this legislation and move forward with the bill.

But our objections, those of us who did object to this, had little or nothing to do with White House pressure, but rather our own examination of the bill and our recognizing the problems associated with title III—as I said a moment ago, an egregious raid on the Treasury of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC SOLIDARITY [LIBERTAD] ACT OF 1995

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 927, which the clerk report will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 927) to seek international sanctions against the Castro government in Cuba, to plan for support of a transition government leading to a democratically elected government in Cuba, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Dole amendment No. 2898, in the nature of a substitute.

Ashcroft amendment No. 2915 (to amendment No. 2898), to express the sense of the Senate regarding consideration of a constitutional amendment to limit congressional terms.

The Senate resumed the consideration of the bill.

CLOTURE MOTION

CALL OF THE ROLL

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the quorum call under rule XXII, has been waived.

VOTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the substitute amendment No. 2898 to H.R. 927, the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are required under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Illinois [Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN] is necessarily absent.